

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1 and 9-11 as set forth in the complete listing below. Please cancel claims 2, 3, 5-6, 12-16. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A soft drink bottle holding apparatus for providing a handle grip on a flexible two-liter plastic bottle formed with a shoulder and a base, comprising:

a first cylindrical section conforming to a said two-liter plastic soft drink bottle shoulder for insertion of said soft drink bottle therein to said shoulder, thereby cradling said soft drink bottle at the shoulder through, and a second cylindrical section smaller in diameter than said first cylindrical section and conforming to a said soft drink bottle base, said second cylindrical section being formed with an inwardly tapered inner surface for partial insertion of said base therein and for gripping said base by a friction fit to maintain said two-liter plastic bottle therein despite angling of said bottle to dispense liquid;

~~two or more~~ a pair of struts, each ~~of said two or more struts being~~ fixedly attached ~~at one end to~~ endwise between said first cylindrical section and ~~at another end to~~ said second cylindrical section, said pair of struts spanning said first cylindrical section and second cylindrical section on diametric sides thereof, such that said first and second cylindrical sections are rigidly held in a spaced apart configuration;

one or more support ribs, each of said support ribs being fixedly attached to one of said struts;

a handle fixedly attached to one of said ~~two or more~~ pair of struts;

wherein said first cylindrical section and said second cylindrical section are aligned axially thereby creating an apparatus for grasping and dispensing the contents of large, flexible, handle-less two-liter plastic soft drink bottles.

2-3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously Presented) The soft drink bottle holding apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said first and second cylindrical sections further comprise outer surfaces suitable for displaying text.

5-6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) The soft drink bottle holding apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said second cylindrical section further comprises an end cap.

8. (Previously Presented) The soft drink bottle holding apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said handle further comprises a plurality of fixedly attached, transverse raised ribs proximate one end.

9. (Currently Amended) The soft drink bottle holding apparatus according to claim 2

wherein said first and second cylindrical sections, said ~~two or more~~ pair of struts, said handle, and said one or more support ribs are fabricated of plastic materials.

10. (Currently Amended) The soft drink bottle holding apparatus according to claim 9 wherein said first and second cylindrical sections, said ~~two or more~~ pair of struts, said handle, and said one or more support ribs are molded as a unitized assembly.

11. (Currently Amended) The soft drink bottle holding apparatus according to claim 9 wherein said first and second cylindrical sections, said ~~two or more~~ pair of struts, said handle, and said one or more support ribs are assembled using a bonding agent.

12-16. (Canceled)